



# STATE FOREST NOTES

Office of the State Forester  
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## PRODUCTION OF CALIFORNIA TIMBER OPERATORS IN 1959 <sup>1/</sup>

### SUMMARY

Timber production in California increased four percent over 1958 production. Timber operators reported cutting 5,886,061,000 board feet of timber in 1959. This production consisted of sawlogs, veneer logs, pulp logs, split products, poles, piling, fence posts, and cordwood (tables 2 and 3). In addition to these products 250,519 Christmas trees, 142 tons of bark and 2,201 tons of greenery were harvested (table 4).

The year 1959 saw the third highest production since the Division started compiling production statistics in 1946. The highest year was 1955 with 6,014,939,000 board feet. Since 1957 there has been increased annual production (fig. 1).

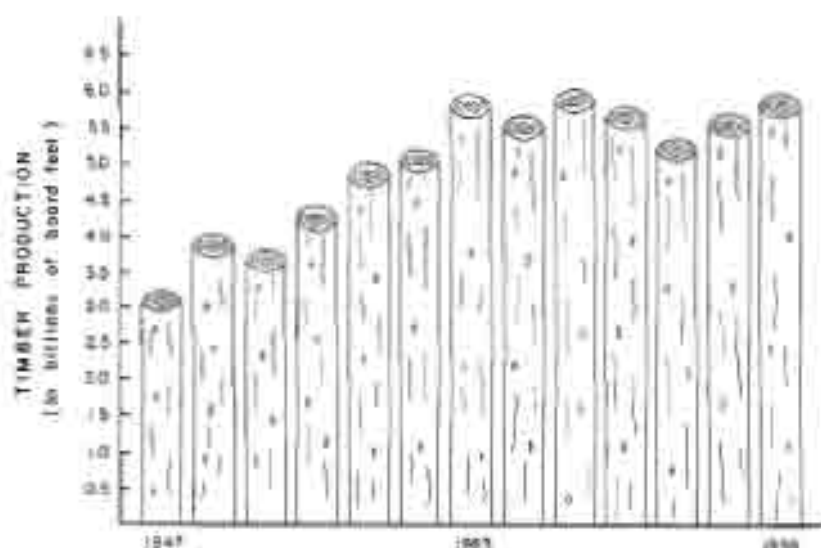


Fig. 1 TIMBER PRODUCTION IN CALIFORNIA, 1947-1959

<sup>1/</sup> This report was compiled in the State Forester's office by Daniel Dotta from information supplied by California timber operators and Division forest practice inspectors.

## TRENDS

It is noteworthy that Humboldt County alone provided 27 percent of the total production of the State. Mendocino and Humboldt counties together accounted for 38 percent of the timber cut. The north coastal area produced 48 percent of the State's total. The five leading counties in order of their production were Humboldt, Mendocino, Shasta, Trinity, and Siskiyou. These five counties have been leading producers since 1957. Prior to 1957 Plumas County was in the first five and since then Trinity County has moved into the top five counties.

The number of active timber operators in 1959 increased for the first time since 1955 (table 1). There was an increasing trend in timber operators from 1946 until 1955, then a decrease was noted until 1959. The turnover in Christmas tree operators is probably the largest. It is estimated that one-third drop out each year and approximately an equal number take their place. There is a smaller turnover in operators producing split products, poles and piling, fence posts, and fuelwood. Often this type of operation is done in conjunction with other types of forest product operations.

Table 1. Active timber operators and timber production in California, 1946 - 1959.

| Year | Timber operators<br>(number) | Timber volume cut<br>(board feet) |
|------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1946 | 399                          |                                   |
| 1947 | 790                          | 3,185,995,000                     |
| 1948 | 810                          | 3,983,213,000                     |
| 1949 | 813                          | 3,795,252,000                     |
| 1950 | 989                          | 4,303,011,000                     |
| 1951 | 1,052                        | 4,984,288,000                     |
| 1952 | 1,228                        | 5,057,036,000                     |
| 1953 | 1,487                        | 5,990,088,000                     |
| 1954 | 1,599                        | 5,600,210,000                     |
| 1955 | 1,768                        | 6,014,939,000                     |
| 1956 | 1,718                        | 5,861,634,000                     |
| 1957 | 1,591                        | 5,346,521,000                     |
| 1958 | 1,526                        | 5,675,392,000                     |
| 1959 | 1,677                        | 5,886,061,000                     |

## HIGHLIGHTS

Two factors which contributed to increased timber production in 1959 were the quick salvaging of timber from large fire areas and the mild weather permitting logging through the month of December. Nearly all counties showing large increases had large fire salvage operations in 1959.

Forest fires burned considerable acreage in California commercial forests in 1959. Considerable loss of merchantable timber and growth potential occurred on public and private holdings as a result of the devastating fires. The impact of these fires brought about changes in logging in 1959 which will be felt for some time. Many operations in green timber closed down during the year to expedite the salvage of fire-killed timber. An accelerated program promoted by The California Forest Pest Control Action Council of salvaging insect infested timber and trees susceptible to insect attack was organized at the close of 1959. This program was instituted to aid in the control of bark beetles which were expected to be a major problem in the management of pine stands in 1960.

According to the Bureau of Census, the preliminary estimate for 1959 lumber production was 6,063,000,000 board feet. <sup>2/</sup> The difference between this report of timber production and census lumber production is probably due to mill overrun, the various log scales used, and the large supply of 1958 harvested logs which were decked and sawn into lumber in 1959. Most mills continued producing lumber through December 1959 rather than closing down as they normally would. The mild weather in December permitted both logging and milling to continue through the month.

## ACCURACY AND METHODS USED

The figures presented in this report were obtained from timber operators who voluntarily furnished this information when filing notices of timber operations in 1960. It is recognized that these figures do not represent complete coverage of 1959 operations. It is believed, however, that 5,886,061,000 board feet is quite close to the actual timber production. At any rate, it is the best available information at this time. In tables 2 - 4 counties in which no timber was cut are not listed. Some counties were combined to prevent disclosure of individual operations.

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2/ U. S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Census, Industry Division. January, 1961. Lumber production and mill stocks 1959 and 1958. 9 pp. Processed.

To convert information submitted to a common base, standard conversion factors and definitions were used as follows:

Sawlogs and veneer logs were combined because sawlogs are often later segregated for veneer logs. No attempt was made to convert all units to a common log scale because, in most cases, the scale used was not given.

Fence posts. Most operators reported number of posts. Conversion to board feet was made on the basis of an average post containing about 11 board feet.

Shingles. Shingles were included in split products. When reported in bundles or squares it was assumed one bundle contained 25 board feet and 4 bundles equalled a square.

Poles and piling. Reports were received in lineal feet and pieces. Each piece was estimated to contain 30 lineal feet and 100 board feet.

Shakes. Shakes were included in split products. Reports were received in bundles and it was assumed that 25 shakes per bundle contained 10 board feet.

Table 2. California timber production, 1959.

| County              | No. of<br>timber<br>opera-<br>tors <u>a/</u> | Veneer<br>logs &<br>sawlogs<br>(MBM) | Pulp<br>wood<br>(MBM) | Misc. <u>b/</u><br>(MBM) | Total<br>(MBM) |
|---------------------|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Alpine, Mono        | 10   | 27,967                               | -                     | -                        | 27,967         |
| Amador              | 12   | 12,596                               | -                     | 84                       | 12,680         |
| Butte               | 58   | 104,145                              | -                     | 745                      | 104,890        |
| Calaveras           | 25   | 116,164                              | -                     | 85                       | 116,249        |
| Del Norte           | 66   | 336,778                              | -                     | 85                       | 336,863        |
| El Dorado           | 76   | 217,909                              | 2                     | 531                      | 218,442        |
| Fresno              | 19   | 60,055                               | -                     | 111                      | 60,166         |
| Glenn               | 6  | 40,944                               | -                     | -                        | 40,944         |
| Humboldt            | 396  | 1,566,498                            | -                     | 3,610                    | 1,570,108      |
| Lake, Colusa        | 25   | 29,608                               | 500                   | 375                      | 30,483         |
| Lassen              | 40   | 144,541                              | -                     | 26                       | 144,567        |
| Madera              | 17   | 74,675                               | -                     | 71                       | 74,746         |
| Mariposa, Merced    | 14   | 15,193                               | -                     | 61                       | 15,254         |
| Mendocino           | 255  | 609,877                              | 2,991                 | 10,253                   | 623,121        |
| Modoc               | 13   | 50,831                               | -                     | 49                       | 50,880         |
| Monterey, San Luis  |  |                                      |                       |                          |                |
| Obispo              | 18   | -                                    | 3,900                 | 295                      | 4,195          |
| Napa, Marin         | 20   | 24,401                               | 1,505                 | -                        | 25,906         |
| Nevada              | 97   | 69,355                               | 2                     | 889                      | 70,246         |
| Placer              | 57   | 116,509                              | 500                   | 30                       | 117,039        |
| Plumas              | 62   | 211,467                              | -                     | 143                      | 211,610        |
| San Bernardino,     |  |                                      |                       |                          |                |
| Los Angeles         | 9  | 23,472                               | -                     | 251                      | 23,723         |
| San Diego,          |  |                                      |                       |                          |                |
| Riverside           | 11   | 15                                   | -                     | 345                      | 360            |
| San Mateo           | 11   | 23,462                               | 135                   | 659                      | 24,256         |
| Santa Clara, San    |  |                                      |                       |                          |                |
| Benito, Stanislaus, |  |                                      |                       |                          |                |
| Contra Costa        | 9  | 1,263                                | -                     | 46                       | 1,309          |
| Santa Cruz          | 39   | 21,575                               | -                     | 389                      | 21,964         |
| Shasta              | 106  | 441,305                              | -                     | 412                      | 441,717        |
| Sierra              | 34   | 83,507                               | -                     | 398                      | 83,905         |
| Siskiyou            | 102  | 379,401                              | -                     | 297                      | 379,698        |
| Sonoma              | 97   | 251,455                              | 5,364                 | 609                      | 257,428        |
| Tehama              | 21   | 102,054                              | -                     | 50                       | 102,104        |
| Trinity             | 112  | 438,098                              | -                     | 1,124                    | 439,222        |
| Tulare, Kern,       |  |                                      |                       |                          |                |
| Ventura             | 22   | 51,815                               | -                     | 6                        | 51,821         |
| Tuolumne            | 23   | 134,791                              | -                     | 65                       | 134,856        |
| Yuba                | 22   | 66,641                               | -                     | 701                      | 67,342         |
| Total               | 1,677  | 5,848,367                            | 14,899                | 22,795                   | 5,886,061      |

a/ Includes active timber operators engaged in production of miscellaneous and other forest products (tables 3 and 4).

b/ Miscellaneous forest products includes split products, poles, piling, fence posts, and cordwood. For breakdown by products see table 3.



Table 3. Production of miscellaneous forest products  
in California, 1959.

| County               | Split<br>products<br>(MBM) | Poles<br>piling<br>(pieces) | Fence<br>posts<br>(pieces) | Fuel-<br>wood<br>(cords) | Total<br>(MBM) |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Alpine, Mono         | -                          | -                           | -                          | -                        | -              |
| Amador               | -                          | 837                         | -                          | -                        | 84             |
| Butte                | 254                        | 3,848                       | 6,345                      | 73                       | 745            |
| Calaveras            | 12                         | 100                         | -                          | 125                      | 85             |
| Del Norte            | 75                         | -                           | -                          | 20                       | 85             |
| El Dorado            | 9                          | 4,811                       | -                          | 85                       | 531            |
| Fresno               | 61                         | 280                         | 1,052                      | 20                       | 111            |
| Glenn                | -                          | -                           | -                          | -                        | -              |
| Humboldt             | 3,573                      | 375                         | -                          | -                        | 3,610          |
| Lake, Colusa         | -                          | 50                          | -                          | 740                      | 375            |
| Lassen               | -                          | -                           | -                          | 51                       | 26             |
| Madera               | -                          | 450                         | 1,000                      | 30                       | 71             |
| Mariposa, Merced     | 15                         | 250                         | 1,900                      | -                        | 61             |
| Mendocino            | 7,754                      | 24,931                      | 20                         | 12                       | 10,253         |
| Modoc                | -                          | 250                         | 250                        | 44                       | 49             |
| Monterey, San Luis   | -                          | -                           | -                          | -                        | -              |
| Obispo               | 86                         | -                           | -                          | 418                      | 295            |
| Napa, Marin          | -                          | -                           | -                          | -                        | -              |
| Nevada               | 2                          | 8,520                       | 900                        | 50                       | 889            |
| Placer               | -                          | 300                         | -                          | -                        | 30             |
| Plumas               | 12                         | 1,203                       | -                          | 22                       | 143            |
| San Bernardino,      | -                          | -                           | -                          | -                        | -              |
| Los Angeles          | 3                          | 2,316                       | -                          | 32                       | 251            |
| San Diego, Riverside | -                          | 3,200                       | -                          | 50                       | 345            |
| San Mateo            | 549                        | -                           | -                          | 221                      | 659            |
| Santa Clara, San     | -                          | -                           | -                          | -                        | -              |
| Benito, Stanislaus,  | -                          | -                           | -                          | 93                       | 46             |
| Contra Costa         | -                          | -                           | -                          | -                        | -              |
| Santa Cruz           | 287                        | 55                          | -                          | 195                      | 389            |
| Shasta               | -                          | 3,724                       | -                          | 77                       | 412            |
| Sierra               | -                          | 3,981                       | -                          | -                        | 398            |
| Siskiyou             | -                          | 2,873                       | -                          | 19                       | 297            |
| Sonoma               | 553                        | 564                         | -                          | -                        | 609            |
| Tehama               | 3                          | 328                         | -                          | 29                       | 50             |
| Trinity              | -                          | 11,245                      | -                          | -                        | 1,124          |
| Tulare, Kern,        | -                          | -                           | -                          | -                        | -              |
| Ventura              | 6                          | -                           | -                          | -                        | 6              |
| Tuolumne             | 50                         | 21                          | -                          | 25                       | 65             |
| Yuba                 | 10                         | 6,854                       | -                          | 12                       | 701            |
| Total                | 13,314                     | 81,366                      | 11,467                     | 2,443                    | 22,795         |

Table 4. Production of other forest products in California, 1959.

| County  | Christmas<br>trees<br>(number) | Bark<br>(tons) | Greenery<br>(tons) |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Alpine, Mono                                      | 2,900                          | -              | -                  |
| Amador  | 200                            | -              | -                  |
| Butte   | 13,994                         | -              | 2                  |
| Calaveras   | 10,161                         | -              | -                  |
| Del Norte   | -                              | -              | 175                |
| El Dorado   | 8,946                          | -              | -                  |
| Fresno  | 2,219                          | -              | -                  |
| Glenn   | -                              | -              | -                  |
| Humboldt  | 5,470                          | 142            | -                  |
| Lake, Colusa                                      | -                              | -              | -                  |
| Lassen  | 50,916                         | -              | -                  |
| Madera  | 6,130                          | -              | -                  |
| Mariposa, Merced                                  | 1,200                          | -              | -                  |
| Mendocino   | 55                             | -              | 1,943              |
| Modoc   | 15,950                         | -              | -                  |
| Monterey, San Luis Obispo                         | -                              | -              | -                  |
| Napa, Marin                                       | -                              | -              | -                  |
| Nevada  | 21,714                         | -              | 2                  |
| Placer  | 14,767                         | -              | -                  |
| Plumas  | 18,712                         | -              | -                  |
| San Bernardino, Los Angeles                       | -                              | -              | -                  |
| San Diego, Riverside                              | 500                            | -              | -                  |
| San Mateo   | -                              | -              | -                  |
| Santa Clara, San Benito, Stanislaus, Contra Costa | -                              | -              | -                  |
| Santa Cruz  | -                              | -              | 76                 |
| Shasta  | 29,106                         | -              | 3                  |
| Sierra  | 12,069                         | -              | -                  |
| Siskiyou  | 21,392                         | -              | -                  |
| Sonoma  | -                              | -              | -                  |
| Tehama  | 6,611                          | -              | -                  |
| Trinity   | 838                            | -              | -                  |
| Tulare, Kern, Ventura                             | 2,095                          | -              | -                  |
| Tuolumne  | 2,547                          | -              | -                  |
| Yuba  | 2,027                          | -              | -                  |
| Total   | 250,519                        | 142            | 2,201              |

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